

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 VO-03 L-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00

INSE-00 NSAE-00 CPR-01 EB-07 SCS-03 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 INR-07 /063 W

----- 033076

R 031430Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 783

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7604

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, UR, US

SUBJ: VISA RECIPROCITY: REENTRY THROUGH BREST

REF: A. MOSCOW 6834

B. LENINGRAD 796

1. MAY 29 POLITICAL COUNSELOR MADE UNSUCCESSFUL TELEPHONE APPROACH PER PARA 5 REF A TO FEDOTOV OF MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION. FEDOTOV SAID MINISTRY WAS NOT TAKING POSITION THAT FUTURE REQUESTS FOR REENTRY THROUGH BREST WOULD BE REFUSED; IN DECLINING TO GRANT SIMULTANEOUSLY BOTH EXIT AND REENTRY MINISTRY WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT SUCH ENDORSEMENTS FOR BREST SHOULD BE REGARDED AS EXCEPTIONS RATHER THAN AS A RIGHT.

2. AT RECENT SOCIAL FUNCTION, AGANIN AND OTHER WORKING-LEVEL MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS SEEMED DEFENSIVE AND EVEN EMBARRASSED ABOUT ISSUE AND URGED EMBASSY MAKE SPECIFIC WRITTEN PROPOSAL TO ALLEVIATE ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY PRESENT SITUATION. THUS, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO SUBMIT NOTE TO MFA REQUESTING, THAT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, MFA SUBSTITUTE BREST FOR LENINGRAD AS REGULAR PORT ON VISAS OF EMBASSY, BUT NOT CONGEN PERSONNEL. NOTE WOULD FURTHER STATE THAT ALTERNATIVELY, EMBASSY PROPOSES EACH SIDE
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RECIPROCALLY ISSUE VISAS WITH FOUR REGULAR PORTS. THE US WOULD

IN THAT CASE REQUEST BREST AS ITS FOURTH PORT, AND OFFER IN RETURN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING -- SAN FRANCISCO BY AIR ONLY; LAREDO BY RAIL OR CAR ONLY; CHAMPLAIN, N.Y., OR ST. ALBANS, VT. NOTE WOULD CONCLUDE BY REQUESTING PROMPT SOVIET DECISION ON ISSUE IN VIEW OF IMMINENT HEAVY TRAVEL SEASON, WITH LARGE TURNOVER OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND VACATION TRAVEL ABOUT TO BEGIN.

4. IF ABOVE APPROACH DOES NOT PRODUCE PROMPT END TO THE UNNECESSARY NUISANCE HARASSMENT NOW BEING PRACTICED, EMBASSY PROPOSES ORAL NOTIFICATION TO MFA AT HIGHER LEVEL THAT IN VIEW OF BREST PROBLEM, EMBASSY HAS BEGUN REVIEW OF PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT FOR DIPLOMATS' AND AIR CREWMEN'S ALTERNATIVE PORTS. DEMARCHE WOULD STIPULATE THAT BENEFIT TO US OF PRESENT AGREEMENT IS IN GRAVE DOUBT AS RESULT OF SOVIET ATTITUDE ON EXIT-REENTRY AT BREST.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE IN ABOVE PROPOSAL OR ADVICE RE ALTERNATIVE MEASURES.

6. FYI: EMBOFF RECENTLY TRAVELLED VIA BREST TO WARSAW WITH EXIT ONLY AND OBTAINED ENDORSEMENT FOR REENTRY THROUGH BREST FROM SOVEMBASSY WARSAW IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES. ANOTHER EMBASSY FAMILY WITH VISAS ENDORSED FOR EXIT ONLY ASKED SOVEMBASSY FOR ENDORSEMENT FOR REENTRY, AND WAS TOLD EXIT SLIP APPARENTLY LEFT IN PASSPORT BY SOVIET BORDER GUARDS WAS VALID FOR REENTRY THROUGH BREST. FAMILY SUBSEQUENTLY REENTERED THROUGH BREST WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.
STOESSEL

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